**Making Plans**

**Our 2018 NFB of Kentucky Convention**

**Is on the horizon**

**As the lazy hazy days of summer morph into the cool crisp days of autumn, you can bet that we are hard at work planning our 71st National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky State Convention. The convention will be held the weekend of October 12th through the 14th, at the Hilton Garden Inn Northeast, 9850 Park Plaza Avenue, Louisville, KY 40241. Room rates are $135 per night, per room, plus tax, which will total $156.60. You can begin making reservations by calling the hotel direct at, 502-423-0018. You must make your reservation no later than September 28th to guarantee a room at our convention rate. Once you have your reservation, you must give me a call at 502-366-2317, or email me at** **cathyj1949@gmail.com** **so that I can put your name on the master list that will be given to the hotel. Please note that failure to contact me will result in your not getting your room credit.**

**We realize attending a convention is not cheap. That’s why the Affiliate is happy to subsidize member’s room $35 per night, per room, for two (2) nights. You are eligible for this subsidy if you are a member of the NFB of Kentucky, which means your dews were paid to your local chapter, division, or at large on or before August 1st, 2018. You are also required to preregister before the deadline, Sunday, October, 7th. Again, this subsidy is per room not per person. You are allowed up to four (4) occupants in a room. This certainly can help cut expenses. Think about how much fun and how convenient it will be to stay at the hotel. It is also important to note that the NFB of Kentucky is shouldering some of the expense for meals.**

**If you have paid your dews on or before August 1st, and if you have preregistered by October 7th, and you are a first-time convention goer, the Kentucky Affiliate is offering to pay the expense of your room for two (2) nights. This would be for room and taxes only! Any additional charges one puts on the room will not be covered by NFBK. First-timers are also required to contact me by phone at, 502-366-2317 so that we can discuss things further. There is no guarantee that you will have a private room.**

**It is important to us that our families be involved in the convention. So, we will offer on-site child care, provided there are at least three (3) children who need the service, and whose families plan on utilizing child care for the entire day. Once we have hired sitters and they have committed to working all day, or part day, we must hold up our end of the bargain by paying them, regardless of the number of children being cared for. The cost will be $20 per child, or $30 for a family of two or more children. If there are not enough children enrolled, all money will be refunded. We will provide lunch, snacks, and dinner. Our children are precious to all of us. Therefore, you must register your child or children by September 28th so that we can adequately provide for their safety and overall enjoyment while in our care. There is a category provided on the registration form to sign up your kiddos. If you have any further questions you should contact Jayne Seif at 502-500-7675, or by email at,** **jayneseif@att.net****. Jayne is a licensed daycare provider and will be in charge of hiring staff. Please know that there will be at least one licensed worker on duty at all times. Doors will open at 8:30 AM on Saturday morning, October 13th, and will remain open the entire day until after the banquet which will end at around 9:30 PM.**

**We will have the ability to preregister this year via PayPal. This should make life easier for all of us. You can register for the NFBK State Convention through PayPal, located on our state website at** [**www.nfbofky.org**](http://www.nfbofky.org)**. This link to registration will be active on Monday, September 3rd. At that time, you can scroll down to the NFBK Convention Registration Form and click to make your reservations. If you have any issues with your online registration, you can contact Todd Stephens at** **todde.stephens@windstream.net****. Now, preregistration is considered registrations initiated through PayPal before October 7th. Please note that any payments received on or after October 7th will be considered late, and the discounted pricing for preregistering will not be reflected on PayPal.**

**For the 2018 state convention, members are expected to pay the following: registration, $15, Saturday luncheon $16, and banquet $18. Nonmembers will pay: registration $20, lunch $20, and banquet $25. For those of you who do not meet the preregistration deadline you will also pay: registration $20, Saturday lunch $20, and banquet $25. Please remember to include your child care fees, if applicable. The preregistration deadline is Sunday, October 7th.**

**Now that we have taken care of the housekeeping duties let’s move along to the convention events themselves. Our Technology Assistance Division, Entrepreneur Division and community partners (KY OFB and Kentuckiana Works) will get things rolling bright and early Friday morning the 12th. At 9:00 AM, Kennetta Freholm, KY OFB Rehabilitation Counselor and Certified Work Incentive Coordinator will speak to attendees about the impact that entering the workforce may have on SSI and SSDI benefits. We will also hear from KY OFB’s Jenny Tyree on today’s assistive technology which can and often does play a crucial role in enhancing productivity at work. At ten o’clock, TAD will begin their job fair which will conclude right around noon. TAD is expecting between ten and fifteen employers to participate in this session. These are employers who have taken a concerted effort in hiring the visually impaired! Get your resume updated and bring several copies with you. I can honestly say I believe that this job fair will add a new dimension to the TAD Symposium. At the conclusion of the job fair, TAD and company will reconvene after a break to set-up mock job interviews and role playing activities led by Federationist and TAD Vice President, Sandra Williams. The event will end with a Q&A session, so please don’t miss out. You will need to Preregister for this event at www.nfbkentuckytad.info.!**

**After a brief time out to grab some lunch and get recharged, the Sports and Recreation Division will take center stage from 4:00 until 6:00 Pm. I have no idea what is planned. I’ve only been told that “it is a secret, but very much a family-friendly event.” Guess I’ll show up with the rest of you to see what’s in store. The Sports and Recreation Division will meet immediately following the activity for a short meeting and election of officers.**

**I hope everyone will hang around just a bit longer because we would very much like to talk with our students about reorganizing our student division. For many years we had an exceptionally strong student division, but as students graduate and move on it is hard to keep things on track.**

**There will be an open meeting of the resolutions committee in the presidential suite Friday evening; room number and time to be announced. If you are interested in hearing the resolutions that will be presented and voted on during the business meeting, you are invited to attend. Todd Stephens and Michael Freholm are chairing this committee. If you have a resolution to submit, or want to propose an idea, you should contact Todd at,** **todde.stephens@windstream.net****, or Michael at,** **mfreholm@rocketmail.com****. I cannot emphasize enough how important these resolutions are to our advocacy efforts within the National Federation of the Blind. Resolutions are the framework of the Federation.**

**Friday evening brings us all together for some good old fun and Kentucky hospitality. Our Greater Louisville Chapter has graciously accepted this task. I think it is pretty safe to say there will be music, snacks, a cash bar, and an auction. From what I have gathered, this social is going to be a theme party. You will want to keep your ears pealed for more information. Goodness only knows what else might happen. If you have been to the last couple of conventions you know that the auction is intended to raise money to help offset convention expenses. We will auction off new items only. I know from personal experience there are good deals to be found. If you are interested in donating an item you should contact Lora Stephens at** **lorafelty@windstream.net****.**

**Now that I have opened the door to fundraising, let’s not forget the reverse raffle. This is a big fundraiser for this organization. I want to thank those of you who have already begun selling your tickets. I am hoping others will get in touch with me soon so that you too can help in this effort. A reverse raffle is exactly what it implies. It is the last name drawn who is the grand prize winner, not the first. The tickets are $10 each. First place is awarded $500 and second place receives $250. But don’t forget all of those $25 prizes that are drawn throughout the contest. We will begin drawing on Friday evening and conclude at the Saturday banquet. Once we begin pulling tickets, no additional tickets can be added. That’s why it is so important to make sure we have all tickets sold before that first name is announced.**

**If it ain’t broke don’t fix it. That’s why I am sticking with the winning team of Karen Mayne and Mary Jo Hackworth to chair our door prize committee. These ladies would be most appreciative if you could see your way clear to donate one or two new items. What’s that you say? You can’t seem to come up with something? Well, I have the perfect solution, money. If you have questions you should contact Karen at,** **Karenmayne1964@gmail.com****, and Mary Jo at,** **mjhackky@gmail.com****. It would be most helpful if you could already have your things marked in both print and in Braille.**

**Saturday brings us to the business side of things. The gavel will drop at 9:00 AM. I am just in the beginning phase of agenda planning, so I can’t be too specific yet. We are however, pleased to welcome back Cora McNabb, Interim Director, Kentucky Office for the Blind. At the time of our convention, the newly organized state agency will have officially been rolled out. Cora will bring us up to speed on the latest agency tidings. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Craig Meador, President of the American Printing House for the Blind will also join us. I am excited about the relationship we are building with APH. As always, I hope to have some interesting guests to add a bit of flavor to our meetings. I am keeping my fingers crossed that we will once again be showcasing our BELL Academy students. These youngsters stole the show last year. I don’t know if I can stand the competition!**

**We really get serious during the afternoon session. We will turn our attention to Legislation, Resolutions, the business meeting, and the election of our executive officers. You may or may not remember that a few years ago we made some changes to our constitution. One of those changes was how we elect our officers and board of directors. Each of these positions is now a two-year term. We elect the executive officers in the even numbered years and the board of directors in the odd numbered years. Therefore, at this convention we will be electing the Executive Officers. Keep in mind this is the policy unless there is a vacancy to be filled.**

**This brings us to our annual National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky banquet. This is truly a time to celebrate. We have seen the hard work and accomplishments over the last year. We are on the precipice of a bright future. Our NFB spirits run high as we listen to our banquet address given by our National Representative. Oh well! I suppose this would be a good time to reveal who this distinguished person is. It is none other than Anil Lewis, the Executive Director of our Jernigan Institute. Anil hails from Georgia, so we do not have to school him in the ways of the south. The banquet is special for another reason as well. For as many years as I can remember this Affiliate has awarded scholarships to blind men and women who excel in school and have the desire to continue their education. This is our contribution and investment in their goals and aspirations. So, why not give them their moment in the sun in front of their NFB family. We don’t want to overlook our hard working members. We really appreciate their time and dedication to this organization. They too deserve the spotlight and credit. Our chapters and divisions are an integral part of the NFBK, and they too deserve to be acknowledged. What better place than our banquet to make these presentations. If, in your estimation there is an individual, chapter, and or division who stand taller than the rest, you will want to make a nomination by contacting Angela Dehart at** **angela.c.dehart@gmail.com****. The upcoming 2018 Summer Edition of the Kentucky Cardinal will have these awards and criteria listed for your reference.**

**Sunday morning is reserved for division meetings. I will be talking to each of the presidents to see in which order the meetings will take place. I am guessing they will begin around 8 AM and end somewhere**

**around the 11 O’clock hour.**

**Sitting here in front of my computer, convention seems a long way off, but I know better. There is still a great deal of work to be done on all fronts, and countless decisions to be made. I have to say though; it is worth every ounce of work that is poured into our convention. I hope this convention teaser has you giving some serious thought to attending our NFB of Kentucky 2018 State Convention.**

**Cathy Jackson, President**

**NFB of Kentucky**